

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Bianco on October 27, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1: lines 12-15,

- (III) a computer system enabled to ~~perform one or more functions of:~~
~~controlling said signal transmitted by said transmitter; and~~
[[estimating]] estimate said bone age responsive to said received signal by
at least one bone age calculation formula,

Claim 49: lines 12-18,

- (c) a computer system enabled to ~~perform one or more functions of:~~
~~controlling said signals transmitted by said transmitter; and~~
[[estimating]] estimate said bone age responsive to said received signal by

at least one bone age formula.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach an apparatus comprising an acoustic transmitter and receiver that face each other with a bone structure there between when in operation. Nor does the prior art teach the use of said apparatus with a structure that is more than a single bone. More importantly, the prior art fails to estimate the bone age of an ossification-actuated skeletal structure based on a bone age calculation formula. As such, the prior art also fails to teach a method for the use of such an apparatus.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES KISH whose telephone number is (571)272-5554. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 ~ Mon. - Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3737

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

JMK